

# BENT RIM BUGLE



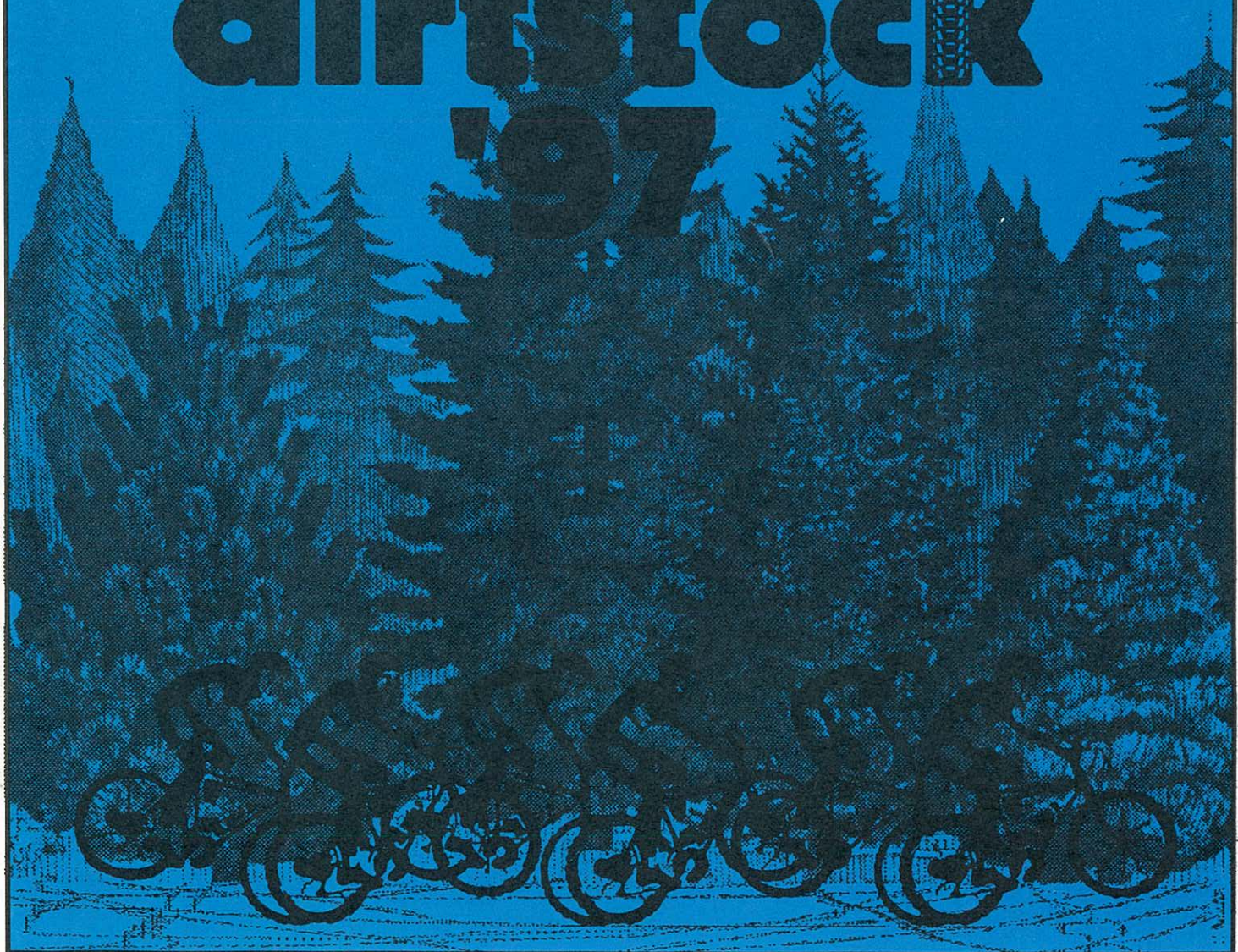
Bent Rim Bugle Published For The Michigan Mountain Biking Association

Vol. 11 no. 1

**MMBA**  
MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION



# dirtstock '97







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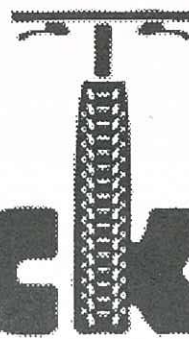
**The Parent Project**

For Muscular Dystrophy Research, Inc.

**Presents**

*Fort Custer's*

# **dirtstock '97**



*August 22nd, 23rd, 24th*

**Fort Custer Recreation Area**

Fund Raising Event for MMBA and The Parent Project for  
Muscular Dystrophy Research, Inc.

**Live Music • Treasure Hunt • Poker Ride  
Night Ride • Kids Ride • Kids Rodeo  
Huffy Toss • Off Road Tours  
Cool Prizes**

***Registration Limited to First 1000 Applicants***

**\$100 singles • \$125 couples • \$150 family**

**Price Includes:**

**Camping • Pancake Breakfast Sat. & Sun. • Cold Lunch Buffet Sat.  
BBQ Dinner Sat. & Sun. • All Events**

The Parent Project for Muscular Dystrophy Research was founded in 1995 by parents of boys with muscular dystrophy. The purpose of this group is to find a cure within the next 3 to 5 years. Research at the University of Pittsburg has identified the gene responsible for the disease. They are well on the way toward developing a technique to correct the problem at the muscle cell level. Over 90% of all funds raised by the Parent Project go for this research.

**For Registration and Information Call (616) 785-0120**

# **“18 Miles of Single-Track Less than 20 Minutes From Muskegon?”**

**You’re kidding?”  
No, really, scouts’  
honor!**

Would you like to ride a new 18 mile trail through the woods, next to streams, glacial lakes, over rolling hills on 5,000 acres of forested land less than an hour from the metro area of Grand Rapids/Holland/Grand Haven and a few minutes from Muskegon?

Well, some may say you’re dreaming.

Some may say you’re crazy (and they would be right of course), but not about the ride I just described.

It is real.

It is there.

And you can ride it.

Thanks to the hard work of Ken, at Breakaway Bike Shop in Muskegon, MMBA member, Bruce Johnson and your Western Chapter President and Vice-President, a new riding area has been opened up just a few minutes north of Muskegon. Just get off and head northeast on the Russell Rd. exit to the Owasippe Boy Scout Camp. Stop in at the camp office and get a map and permit (soon to

be a sticker for your bike) and you can head off on the trail.

You can start riding right now. However, it will take a few weeks from the time you read this until the final details

**Stop in at the camp office and get a map and permit (soon to be a sticker for your bike) and you can head off on the trail.**

of the arrangement can be worked out. The trail is being remarked to be more informative and biker friendly with maps, clear trail marking signs, development of a bike sticker, etc. So, if you run right out and ride this area you’ll need to be

patient and expect a few aspects of the experience to be “under construction”. But by all accounts of Boy Scout Camp Management and the MMBA members who have been

working with them, the trail will rival any trail in southern Michigan. The 18 miles is basically just a start, and depending on the success of the venture and the volunteer help that is available, many more miles could open up. There will be a user fee to ride the trail (a daily fee of a couple bucks or a yearly riding permit for around fifteen bucks), to help the Boy Scouts pay taxes on the land. But it’s a bargain considering the length and beauty of the ride.

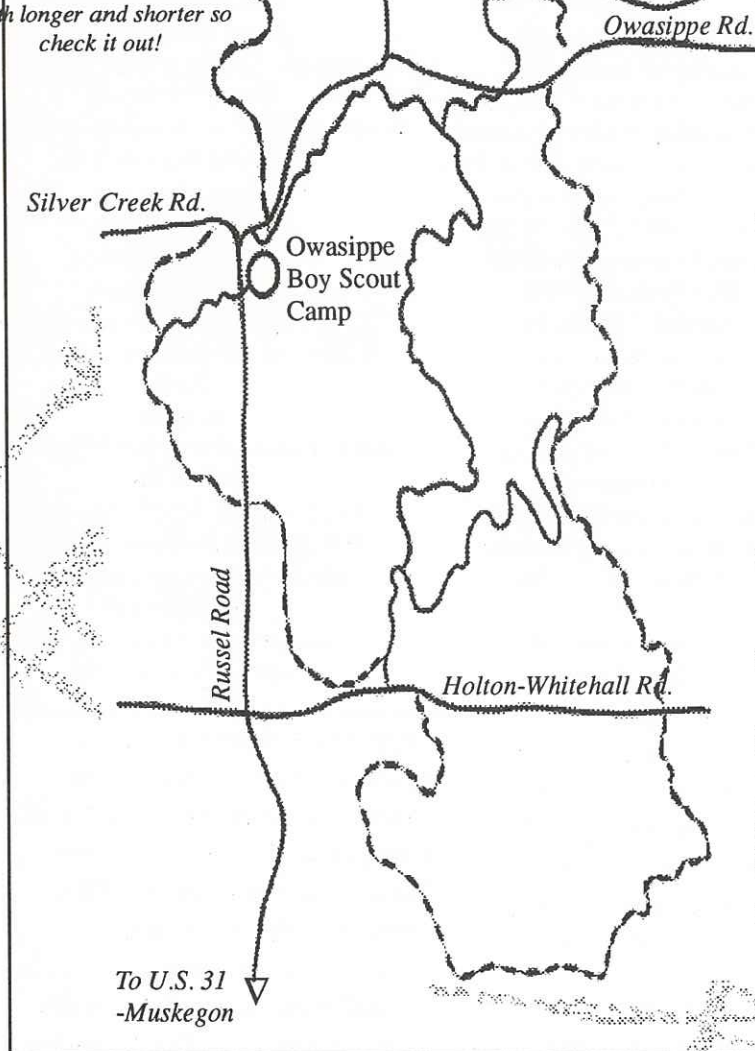
*(see scout map next page)*



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|---|--|



The outer most trail, (which would be the "Blue Trail" if this map were in color) is about 11 miles long with a ride time for an average rider of about 2 hours. There are many other ride combinations available - both longer and shorter so check it out!



(Scout -Continued From last page)

Want to ride it today?

Contact Ken, at Breakaway

Bicycles in Muskegon at: 616-759-0001

or call:

Michael Drazba

Owasippe Scout  
Reservation

9900 Russell Road

Twin Lake, MI 49457

616-894-4061

616-894-8710



Trail markers found at Owasippe

## BENT RIM BUGLE PUBLISHING INFO

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) is published 4 times a year (quarterly) Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The BRB is the source for news and information for the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA). Articles come from MMBA members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other sources. The focus of the BRB is on what is of interest to MMBA members as well as environmental issues, land access, mountain biking events, rides, competition, fun and other activities and information related to the mountain biking.

Editorial contributions and photos are welcomed, but cannot be returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: **MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 49306**. The BRB also can provide classified ads to MMBA members for free and advertising space to shops and manufactures. **For deadlines and rates contact the address above or call, (616) 785-0120 or AOL E-Mail: Go MMBA@aol.com. (Net: Go\_MMBA@aol.com) MMBA Web site: <http://www.mmba.org>.**

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, and/or MMBA members, Dealers, or Sponsors. In other words, lighten-up it's mountain biking not world hunger... Copyright, May 1997, all rights reserved. reserved..Yadi..Yadi..Ya....

## MMBA Responsibility Code

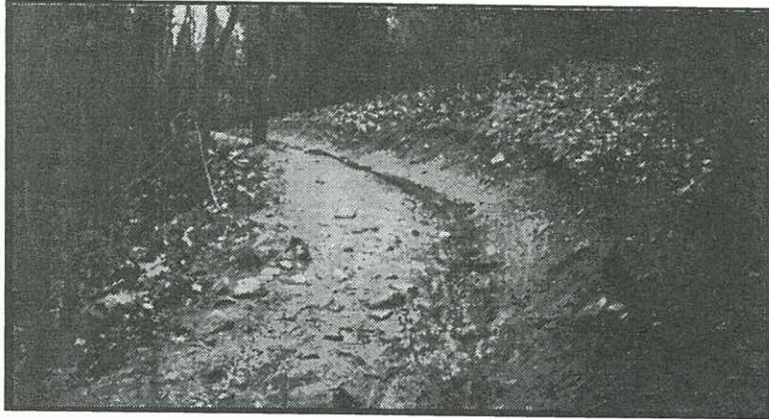
1. Always yield the right of way to other trail users.
2. Slow down and pass with care (or stop).
3. Control your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails.
5. Don't disturb wildlife or livestock.
6. Pack out litter.
7. Respect public and private property.
8. Know local rules.
9. Plan ahead.
10. Avoid riding in large groups.
11. Minimize impact.
12. Report incidents of trail impasse to local park authorities.



## PERFECT TRAILS EVERY TIME

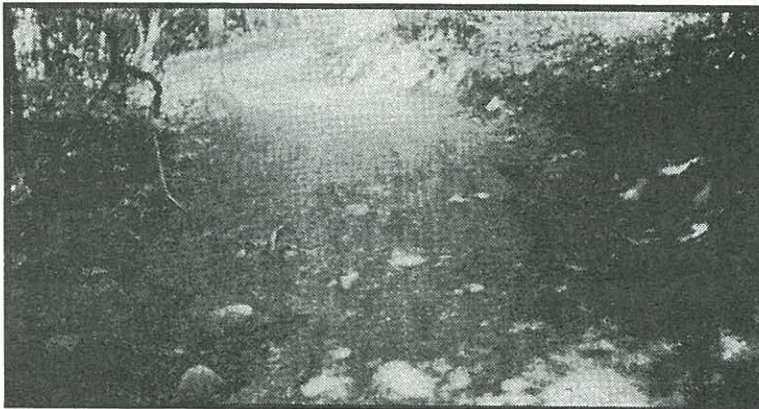
At last there is a product available that virtually does away with trail erosion! TRAILMASTER is an eco-friendly layer of high-density polyethylene that has 600,000+ pounds of tensile strength per square foot. TRAILMASTER's secret lies in conical shaped feet that hold the mat in place. It is porous, allowing water to drain while bonding with the soil to maintain a consistent surface, even when the trail is inundated by heavy rain and high use. TRAILMASTER can be used both on the surface or buried just below to create and maintain a trail surface that is both stable and drains automatically.

TRAILMASTER has been used successfully by many state DNR Departments, including trails in the Pinckney



**A trail damaged by erosion and use in the Pinckney State Recreation Area...**

State Recreation Area, as well as at the Potwawtatom Trail in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with the assistance of the Michigan Mountain Bike Association. As the photos attest, the trail in the Pinckney area was suffering severe erosion problems from runoff and multi-use. Since TRAILMASTER has been installed, there have been heavy rains and over 20,000 users according to Park Manager Jon LaBossiere, with no erosion on the trail, even though a slope exists running straight downhill. Land managers in the



**...and that same trail repaired and treated with TRAILMASTER after heavy rains and 20,000 users.**

Kettle Moraine region of Wisconsin are also proposing a trail test of TRAILMASTER. For more information on TRAILMASTER, contact:

### **GROUNDMASTER PRODUCTS, INC.**

10261 Northland Drive N.E.  
Rockford, MI 49341  
(800) 968-2930







**I·M·B·A**

P.O. Box 7578  
Boulder CO 80306  
303-545-9011  
e-mail: imba@aol.com

Here is the latest on the attempt to revitalize the Land And Water Conservation Fund. Feel free to contact me for details. By: Jim Hasenauer IMBA

Re: Action is needed urgently on LWCF appropriations; Urge Congress & White House to Increase Funding For Open Space & Recreation

*(All timelines reflect modifications to accomodate the publishing dates of the BRB. Your voice in these matters are important at any time.)*

The budget for government spending in 1998 is almost complete and the President and Congress are once again proposing to short shift our nation's investment in open space and recreation. Please contact the White House and your Representatives and Senators to urge them to support at least \$450 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Please act on the two specific action steps described below.

1) Contact Katie McGinty at the Council on Environmental Quality and TJ Glauthier at the Office of Management & Budget urging them to work

## ***Land & Water Conservation Fund: It's Your Bucks - Where do you want them spent?***

with Congress to increase LWCF appropriations to \$450 million. Currently the President's budget only requests \$160 million and would leave state project funding at \$0. Budget negotiations are ongoing between Congress & the administration. While support for increased public lands funding is growing among key Congressional leaders, administration budget negotiators are sticking to the low \$160 million figure for LWCF. Please call both Katie McGinty and TJ Glauthier to urge at least \$450 million for LWCF in Fiscal Year 1998.

Also, please share this alert with other relevant activists & organizations. Contact information:

**Katie McGinty**  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Old Executive Office Building  
Room 360  
17th & Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20501  
202/456-6224

**TJ Glauthier**  
Office of Management & Budget  
Old Executive Office Building,  
Room 246  
17th & Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20503  
202/395-4561

2) Before the End of June:  
Contact your Representative and Senators to urge their

support for at least \$450 million dollars for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 1998. LWCF is a simple, balanced idea with great results. It takes tax revenues from companies that drill in our oceans for oil and gas and invests in places ranging from your local ball field to our national treasures like Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon. Over the past years Congress has irresponsibly raided \$11 billion from LWCF. We want this trend to stop in 1998. Many key Congressional leaders have shown interest in providing increased funding for open space and recreation this year, but they are not hearing from enough of their constituents to make LWCF a priority. A sample letter urging congressional support for LWCF is provided below.

Important Addresses:

U.S. Senators  
The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington DC 20510

U.S. Representatives  
The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Thank you for your help for the LWCF.

*(See Sample Letter Next Page....)*



\*\*\* SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR AREA'S SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE \*\*\*

Dear Representative or Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to you to help protect America's outdoor heritage. Specifically, I urge you to support a \$450 million appropriation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund this year. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a simple idea. Thirty years ago, Congress promised the American people that each year \$900 million in royalties from off shore oil and gas drilling would support the creation of parks, forests, clean water, and open spaces and to guarantee outdoor opportunities and a clean environment for Americans.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been an investment with results in America and Americans. It has been responsible for the acquisition of nearly seven million acres of parkland and open space and the development of more than 37,000 parks and recreation projects nationwide. In our own state of \_\_\_\_\_, LWCF has been responsible for projects like \_\_\_\_\_.

Unfortunately, in almost every year since 1979, Congress has raided as much as 85 percent of the fund for other purposes. Since 1993, our own state of \_\_\_\_\_ has not received LWCF state assistance funds, leaving communities with few resources for local park projects.

As part of Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation, a national coalition representing environmental, urban, recreation, and business interests, I urge you to support a FY1998 appropriation of at least \$450 million for LWCF. These funds would help protect \_\_\_\_\_ in our area.

Congress should make the wise choice and invest in America's natural heritage and provide recreation opportunities for all Americans. I urge you to make restoration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund a priority.

I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

## **WOMBAT Jamboree '97 to Donate Percentage of Profits to IMBA**

Myra Miller, co-organizer of WOMBAT Jamboree '97, has announced that the event will donate a minimum of 5 percent of net profits to the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA). IMBA is a non-profit mountain bike education and advocacy organization.

WOMBATS (Women's Mountain Bike & Tea Society) is dedicated to enhancing women's participation and enjoyment of mountain biking.

"We feel that IMBA is helping in all areas of the sport of mountain biking," Miller said. "They are also very supportive of our goals of bringing more women into the sport."

### **First All-Women's Mountain Bike Jamboree To Be Held In Durango, Colorado, August 6-10, 1997**

The first annual WOMBATS all-women's mountain bike jamboree will be held August 6-10, 1997 in Durango, Colorado. WOMBAT Jamboree '97 is a chance for women mountain bikers to ride, socialize, and learn with other women.

WOMBATS (Women's Mountain Bike & Tea Society)

was founded by three-time national mountain bike champion Jacquie Phelan as a way for women to enhance their mountain biking experience in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

WOMBAT Jamboree '97 is geared to women of all riding abilities, with special emphasis on helping beginner and intermediate women riders feel more comfortable and skilled with their riding. In addition to guided rides on the fabulous trails surrounding Durango, WOMBAT Jamboree '97 will offer technique and skill clinics, information on nutrition, training, body image, and healthy lifestyle and the chance

*(Wom. continued pg.8)*



*(Wom. continued from pg.7)*

to meet, ride, and socialize with women riders of similar interests and abilities.

Attendees of WOMBAT Jamboree '97 can choose either the full session (Aug. 6-10) or the weekend-only option (Aug. 8-10). Packages are available both with and without lodging, with prices ranging from \$210 to \$495. Accommodations and activities for families are also available.

For additional information, contact WOMBATS, c/o Myra Miller, 140 E. Park Ave., Durango, CO 81301

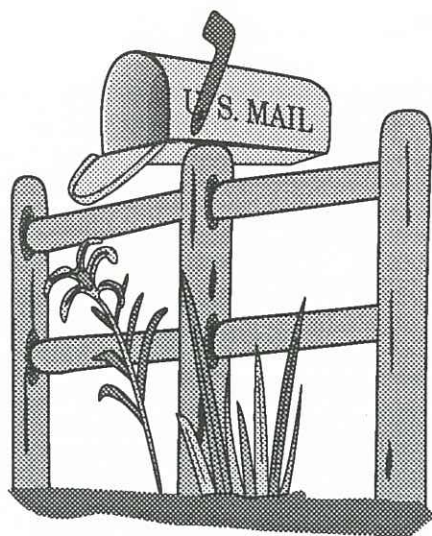
Or call:

(970) 247-0232

e-mail: [hulick@frontier.net](mailto:hulick@frontier.net)

visit us on the web at:

<http://www.creativelinks.com/wombat>



### Dear IMBA Club:

RockShox and IMBA have teamed to provide high-quality trail tools for our hard-working affiliates. These tools were produced by Zac. Tool, Inc. in California with your needs in mind. RockShox vendors donated the tough red powder-coating - exactly the same paint used on the Judy Fork.

We know that you will put these tools to good use.

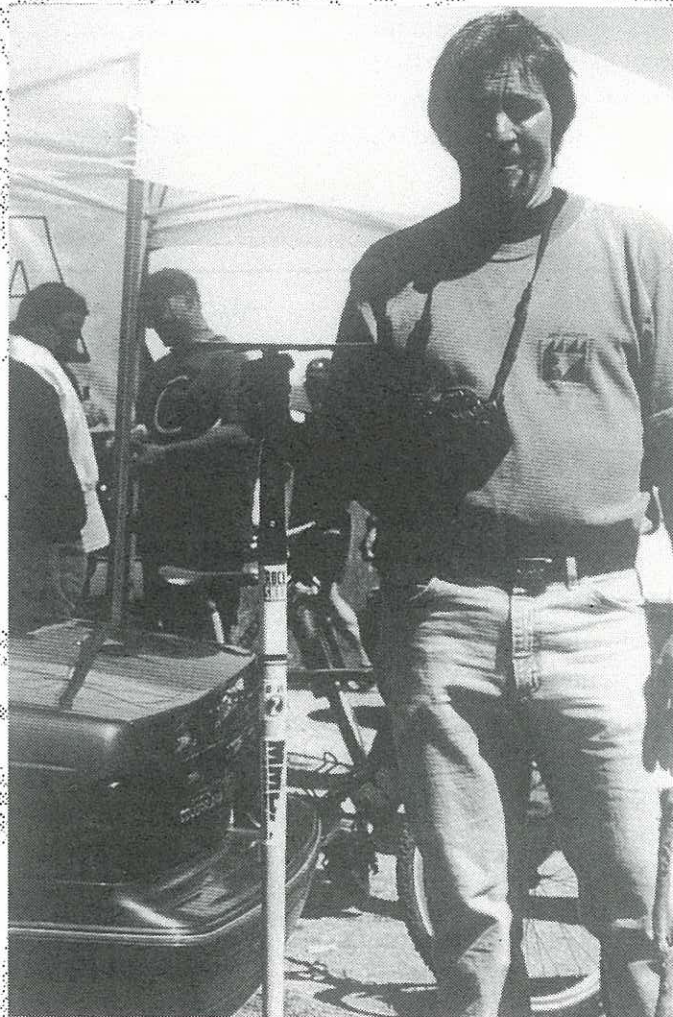
Keep up the great work!

Tim Blumenthal

Executive Director IMBA

## Here is a *Fax*- You can Help!

The MMBA is in need of a Fax Machine that is addressable - meaning that, depending on the ring the phone knows whether a fax is coming or a phone call. The MMBA recently upgraded its answering system to better serve MMBA members, but the upgrade left us with an antiquated fax machine. In order to take a fax now, the fax machine must be manually started by someone (me) in the office. This is not always possible. If you or your business would like to help the MMBA with an addressable fax machine, arrangements could be made to thank you or your company for the donation in the answering machine message. Please call the MMBA at 616-785-0120 if you can help. Thanks!



*Ric Castelman, Western MMBA volunteer - The RockShox tools were first used to build new trail at Bass River near Grand Haven.*



# Greetings from the Points Series Office!

By Gordie Allen/Points Series Director

We are off to the greatest start in the history of the MMBA Championship Points Series! Because our opening race at Whiskey creek was cancelled, the Yankee Springs trail benefit became the lead-off race for the Series. The weather was great and the turnout was fantastic. Over 530 riders competed. I believe this exceeded the old attendance record by over 150 racers. Although the infamous Yankee Springs scoring gremlin struck again, everyone had a great time and Robert Linden from Tailwinds mailed results to every racer within the week.

The second race of the series took us Up North to the Boyne Challenge. They still had snow on the ski slopes, but none on the course. As usual the long climbs made this race an early season butt kicker (ah, but I love the downhills). The addition of some vertical sand made some sections of the course ...challenging (as in Boyne Challenge). As usual the rain held off until the completion of awards. I understand Brent consults with the Native Americans of this area for weather control. I believe another attendance record was set for this Spring event.

Stop three on the Series was the Fort Custer Stampede. Again absolutely fantastic weather assisted in producing another record breaking turnout with 590 racers and over 50 kids racers in attendance. The

services of Fun Promotions produced flawless scoring throughout the day, and the fantastic volunteers from the Southwest Chapter managed the event like the unpaid professionals that they are. The course was perfect and very fast. The Southwest Chapter netted over \$11,500 for its trails fund (see Southwest Chapter News for details on how this money will be spent to improve the facilities at Fort Custer).

The Ithaca Challenge was the fourth stop on the Series, with Mother Nature once again producing great racing weather. The course was a little muddy at the start of the Elite/Expert race, but the sun, wind and riders quickly gave the course more traction than an eight legged fly on a dead goat's eyeball. A field of over 490 racers set a record for this event also. As usual Fun Promotions put on a flawless event (if Brent could only get rid of the cops and their speed trap). By now I was saying "Who said mountain biking has peaked"?

The next stop was Addison Oaks. The day was dry but chilly. Major precipitation two days earlier created the famous Addison Oaks quagmire. This resulted in a very grueling race with a very high percentage of DNF's. We did not set a new attendance record as many racers didn't want to face the three hour bike cleaning project they knew would be there after the race. I have talked to the folks at Addison Oaks and to Bob Yankus about solving the problems with mud in the Spring. The MMBA will put whatever manpower is necessary to solve the problem over the Summer and I

have been assured by Addison Oaks representatives that we will have their full cooperation in this effort. Addison Oaks continues to provide top notch scoring services, impressive awards, and they also gave away four - count 'em - four very nice mountain bikes during the event.

Then came the tenth year at Pando. This Memorial Day race is the Grand Daddy of mountain bike racing in Michigan and the Grand Daddy of promoters, Brent Walk, put on yet another flawless event. Another record turnout of over 700, including the Kids Race, made this the biggest Pando ever! You know, many mountain bikers who race only in Michigan don't know just how fantastic the racing is when compared with other states. This race was one of the first and has set the standards for mountain bike racing in Michigan. Once again, the weather was perfect for racing. It was pouring in Kalamazoo, but dry and cool at Pando. The layout at Pando allows Brent to put together new combinations of trails for each race here. This time he had a new surprise in store. Copying the now famous Trenches at Fort Custer, the new Pando trenches are steeper, deeper, and funner. Man, it just keeps getting better.

So, with six down and nine to go we've got plenty of great racing ahead. Next stop - The Keewenaw Chain Drive. Don't miss this one! It's a long drive, but worth it, believe me. Take four days. Do some off road touring on the way up and back. Ride some of the awesome UP trails. Do the dual slalom on Saturday. Ride in the BridgeFest parade. Go to the \$10.00 lobster cookout and live music on Saturday night. Do the cross-country on Sunday. Man, it

(PS continued on pg. 18)



## Northern Chapter Board

### Members:

Pres.-Dennis Bean-Larson  
(616) 263-7383

Vice Pres. - Open

Secretary/Treasurer -  
Jerry Nilsson - Cadillac  
(616) 775-1959

Bike Shops!! - If you need  
MMBA applications call:  
Pat Hall (616) 938-9763

Comments? Additions?  
Want to join? Want to volunteer? Call:

Dennis Bean-Larson  
6537 Marsh Road,  
Kingsley, MI 49649  
res: (616) 263-7383  
fax: (616) 941-4500  
e-mail:  
beanlarson@michcom.com

## Northeast Chapter

### Meeting/Ride Wed 6/18

Ogemaw Hills  
6:30 pm (Sage Lake)

#### Ride: Sun 6/22

North Country Trail -  
Call/e-mail for details

#### Chapter Meeting/Ride:

Wed 7/2 Ogemaw Hills  
6:30 pm/Sage Lake

#### Ride: Wed 7/16

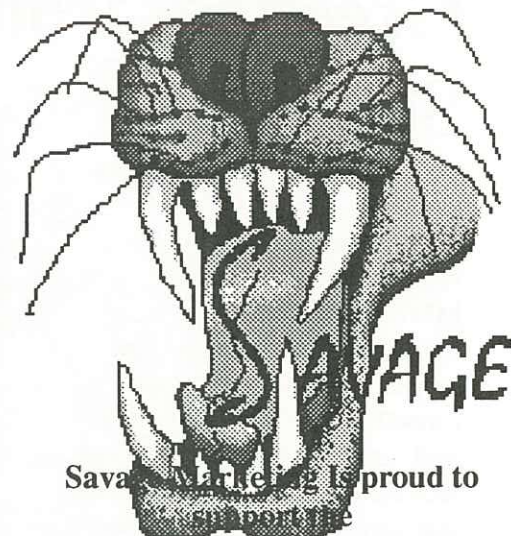
Ogemaw Hills  
6:30 pm/Sage Lake

#### Ride: Sun 7/20

Highland Recreation Area -  
Call/e-mail for details

#### Chapter Meeting/Ride:

Wed 8/6 Ogemaw Hills



### MMBA

Complimentary, great tasting **Stoker Bars** will be available for workers at all MMBA maintenance days across the state.

Stop by the Savage Marketing's "Swift and Sweet" event booth at any MMBA Point Series race to sample all Stoker's great flavors.

6:30 pm/Sage Lake

#### Ride: Sun 8/17

Shingle Mill Pathway -  
Call/e-mail for details

#### Ride: Wed 8/20

Ogemaw Hills  
6:30 pm/Sage Lake

#### Chapter Meeting/Ride:

Wed 9/3 Ogemaw Hills  
6:30 pm/Sage Lake

#### Ride: Wed 9/17

Ogemaw Hills  
6:30 pm/Sage Lake

#### Trial Day: Sun 9/28

Call/e-mail for details

For additional information  
contact:

Kevin Bouck (517)-839-6562  
or e-mail

kbouck@aol.com

Todd Dewell (517)-345-4523  
or e-mail:

tmdewell@Voyager.net

## Mid-State Chapter

The Mid-State chapter is gearing up for a busy summer. We have monthly chapter rides planned for trails throughout the state & (4) fun events including: Scavenger Hunt, Poker Run, Scrabble Scramble and Fun Days! We also have some small bike trips in the works being planned.

The chapter helped the Western chapter for National Trail Day at the Ionia Recreation Area, on Saturday, June 1. Any volunteer help would also be appreciated at Waterloo Recreation Area. We are looking for volunteers for their (3) bike rodeos throughout the summer aimed at teaching bike handling and safety to kids 12 and under. For more info call Lisa at (313) 997-3465.

The chapter still has t-shirts and stickers available with a cool graphic design by Sandra Davison. T-shirts are \$12, stickers \$0.25/2. Colors in the tees are coral and teal.

For more information on any events or any questions you may have call Lisa Lazaroff at (313) 997-3465 or (517) 782-9093 or e-mail at:  
LAZAROL@AA.WL.COM



# Southwest Chapter

## 7 Miles of New Trail

We've added 7 miles of new trail to Fort Custer (the Green Loop), come and check it out!!! Look for the green arrows.

Also a cool new addition to the Amusement Park...(Dances With Trees).

The Southwest Chapter is in the process of clearing, expanding and graveling the trailhead parking lot at a cost of over \$4,800. The money was raised by the Fort Custer Stampede. We hope to add a drinking water supply, bike wash, and new toilet facilities this summer as well.

The May 4th, Fort Custer Stampede netted the Southwest Chapter over \$10,000 for development of the trails and facilities at Fort Custer and other future trail sites. Special thanks to Mike Needham, race promoter for the Chapter. Also to volunteers Joan Orman, Cathy Needham, Joe Caton, Judy and Bruce Milroy, Al and

Marlita Thomas, Charlie, Linda and Rob Swain, Tim and Sue Criscuolo, Kris and Pam Ouvry, Ron and Kathy Hendershott, Tom and McKenzie Owens, Amy Pasma, Kevin VanVeelan, Richland and Plainwell Girl Scouts and Fred Kibler. Chapter meetings are the Third Monday of the Month 6:30 pm Eagle Lake Beach Pavilion, Fort Custer Recreation area...Bring your bike!

**Southwest Chapter has a total of 279 trail volunteer hours in so far this year.**

## The first annual DIRTSTOCK 97 Mt. Bike Festival

We have 150 campsites reserved at Fort Custer, and assignments made for sponsorship, bands, etc. If you just want to ride, then come to Southwest Michigan in August and you'll be able to do just that! Please see page 2!!!!

## Holly/Flint Chapter

The chapter has been working

with Lansing on the costs for expansion at Holdridge Lakes. Cost estimates and a time line are currently in the works. Funding from Lansing-DNR presently is estimated at \$12,500 for the trailhead improvements. These are to include: graveling of the parking lot, parking spaces, signage, bumper blocks, compacted limestone walks, a barrier free vault toilet, fill and topsoil, Hess Road turnaround, with berm and signage.

As these plans are met and trail expansion nears, please keep in touch with us or call Rick to get put on the Trail Team Volunteer List..If members would like to donate additional funding or know of a business interested in getting involved call for more information (810) 634-4091.

### July 20th. Sat

Seven Lakes Hot Air Balloon Festival Chapter Picnic, all day fun. Gates open at 8:00am

### Sept. 6th. Sat. Fourth

Annual Carry Nation Back Road Bike Tour (810)634-4091

### Oct. 5th Sun.

Fall Color Cider Ride - leave downtown Holly at 1:00pm (810) 634-4091.

# Southeast Chapter

## SOUTHEAST CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

1. Island Lake has been selected by the SE

(CC continued next page)



Little Mac on the Potawatomi Trail in the Pinckney Recreation Area near Ann Arbor MI (Photo by Emil Sims).



(CC continued from last page)

Chapter as our focus for National Trails Day on June 7. This is possibly one of the most used trails in the state with 100-150 riders per day during the week, 500-800 on weekends and 2 time trials per year. We will be assisting the park with any revisions needed because of the new paved trail and correcting problem areas on the current system. This is a great chance to get hours in for the **FIRST ACROSS THE FINISH LINE** program (see article on page 15 in this issue.)

2. The SE Chapter held its First Annual Backroad Boogie on May 3. The event began with a scenic backroad ride from Dodge Park to Highland Rec. where Cycle & Fitness of Walled Lake had high-end full suspension bikes for us to demo throughout the day. Bob Yankus (trail "architect") led instructional rides through his technical masterpiece - Highland Recreation Area. A good time was had by all.

3. We had a successful trail day at Bald Mountain on April 13, with 15 volunteers putting in about 3.5-4 hours of work each to re-route a messy section of the trail. Future plans for the park are to complete maintenance around a swampy section near the vicinity of the 1996 boardwalk project. We'll keep you informed.

4. We also had a successful trail day at Maybury with 35-40 people putting in 3.5 hours of work cleaning the trail

after the ice storm. Some local dealers showed up to give us their support. We're still waiting for approval and finalization of plans for the new loop at Maybury. We'll keep you apprised in future newsletters. And, we're planning a Summer Solstice Night Ride at Maybury so get ready to dig out your lights and charge up your batteries! Look in the SE Chapter's LOCAL DIRT for more info.

5. Our annual meeting at the Berkley Front was a success. We had about 60 members attend, a couple even rode their bikes to get a free beer on Todd (SE Prez.). We learned of a new trail in Novi that we're looking into, got some new members, had our SE Chapter elections, informed our members of our plans for the year, and got a chance to spend some time with the chapter in the rare non-trail atmosphere.

6. We're the first chapter to work with the Metropark system. Stony Creek is our

"Foot in the Door". We're excited that the park managers have allowed us mountain bike access, but we **MUST** respect their wishes on the use of this trail if we plan to expand our relationship with Metroparks in the future.

### **Stony Creek Mountain Bike Trail Update**

Last year's BRB contained a request from Bing Eberhart for assistance to establish a mountain bike trail at Stony Creek MetroPark. Mountain bike trails are a new venture for the Huron-Clinton MetroPark system. The park system contains great opportunities for families, like pools, beaches, paved paths, nature trails and centers and picnic area, but no designated mountain bike trails. Cyclists have been riding the ski trails for years at Stony Creek, but the park system had never sanctioned the trail. After an accident last year in the ski trail area, they realized that they should capitalize on their assets and try to develop a real

(CC continued next page)

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for shirt put on backwards or upside down. Always remove shirt before putting it into the wash-  
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**PUT YOUR HEAD IN HERE!**

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## Potawatomi Chapter

### Thursday Night Rides

We've decided to mix it up  
 a bit this year. Last year the  
 Poto Chapter sponsored groups  
 rides every Friday night. This  
 year the rides will be on Thurs-  
 day night @ 6:30 pm Silver  
 Lake parking lot. REMEMBER  
 - RIDE IS WEATHER  
 DEPENDANT CALL THE  
 HOT LINE FOR INFO:

313-4264913.

**TRIPLE TRAIL  
 CHALLENGE  
 SUNDAY, JUNE 22  
 @9:30 - LOCATION:  
 POTAWATOMI TRAILHEAD  
 (SILVER LAKE PARKING  
 LOT IN PINCKNEY  
 RECREATION AREA  
 PINCKNEY, MI  
 COST: FREE  
 RAIN DATE: SUNDAY JUNE  
 29@9:30**

Last year, we had over 50  
 riders join us for a somewhat  
 rainy Triple Trail Challenge.  
 The TTC is an annual 40 mile  
 self-paced fun ride that includes  
 sections of the Poto, Waterloo  
 Trail, Lakelands Rail-to-Trail  
 and numerous dirt roads to

(Continued on page 18)

(CC continued from last page)  
 mountain bike trail system.

The SE Chapter agreed to  
 work with the Park System to  
 develop the trail. Ken Bednark,  
 Bob Yankas, and Bud Pell  
 submitted a proposal last year.  
 Bing decided to go slowly, so  
 he approved an outer loop  
 mountain bike trail early this  
 year. The loop is four miles  
 long and starts at parking lot B  
 in the West Branch Picnic Area,  
 just west of the golf course.  
 The trail is considered a begin-  
 ner trail, with the first three  
 miles wide and flat and the last  
 mile containing several gradual  
 hills.

To respect the wishes of

the park, we request that cy-  
 clists keep to the designated  
 loop and ride counterclockwise.  
 If the mountain bikers act  
 responsibly, the MMBA may be  
 able to obtain approval to  
 expand the other trails and  
 develop an official single track  
 in the park.

I would like to thank  
 MMBA and the following  
 MMBA members for putting up  
 maps, temporary trail markers  
 and picking up trash on April  
 26: Doni Fall, Todd Scott, Mark  
 Nelson, Brandon Nelson, Bob  
 Yankas, Joe Miller.  
 Thanks,  
 Peg Gutmann / email:  
 USFMCHTL@IBMMAIL.COM



## By Fred Tyska

Spring is here, or so the calendar says...and summer is not too far off. Hopefully, mother nature is going to give a few swift kicks to the weather machine and get the thermostat functioning. Also, let's hope the weather machine hasn't gone over its 55,000 year warranty and it will be able to offer pleasant summer weekend holidays.

The flora tends to be affected by the weather more than the fauna. Many of the plants seem to be a few weeks behind and a lot of plants are just hanging in their "bud stage". By the middle of May (perhaps as late as

for their delectably smelling dinner and a place to lay their eggs, they crawl across the flower and pollinate it. The plant gives off an odor similar to a skunk or a burning tire. The Native American Peoples believed that if smelling something gave you a headache, then if you had a headache smelling the something would take it away.

Years ago during my "naturalist forager" state of idealism I picked some of the "cabbage" to try. You have to par boil it a few times, (because it is full of oxalic acid) before you eat it. Eating it raw would be like chewing on razor blades, nails and broken glass. After ten minutes of

lishing their territory. Birds use their singing to warn other birds of their home area. Woodpeckers drum on trees (or wood-siding early in the morning when you're trying to sleep to warn off other woodpeckers.

Some birds actively chase off other competitors as the redwing blackbird. The redwing male shows up first to stake out his territory. He drives off any intruders while trying to entice the female into his abode to mate and start the next batch of redwings. The male redwing must be good because he does this without flowers, candy, alcohol or the bar scene, (or maybe the female redwing blackbird is not that choosy)....

Spring and an early summer is a good time to watch the animals and plants as all the

## RIDING BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE

June in the northern areas) the Trillium's should be showing their pretty white flowers, and carpeting the forest floor. Their seed pods were supposed to have been used as a source of vanilla flavoring during World War II, but since our wildflowers are protected on State Lands we will never get a chance to find out.

The wet areas will have an enclosed, peaked leaf growing, sort of a mottled green or purplish color that later produce large leaves. Inside of the peak hood will be found a round bulb, a structure that has minute flowers on it. This plant is called "skunk cabbage". It is a "corpus" flower, which, in order to pollinate (this is one of those "bird & bees" type things) puts off the odor of a dead body. When the flies come to look

carrying the buds I had a headache and my stomach was doing the flips. I shucked the buds before I chucked up. After a few deep breaths of fresh air the world righted itself and I vowed to stick with the corned-beef and "regular" cabbage type of dishes.

Blood root will also be showing up, a white flower with a green clasping leaf around the flower stem, another "wet feet" type of plant. You will find it near wet areas. The root of the plant is a bright red that the Native Americans used for dye. Another protected plant so that you will have to take my word for it that the root is bright red.

The fauna seems to be on schedule, the birds have built their nests and are sitting on eggs, and the later arriving birds are estab-

leaves have not opened and the ferns are still a nub in the soil. When you take a break on the trails check out the flowers, smell them, look at them and enjoy their beauty while you admire the dapper redwing blackbird.





# Attention All Trail Volunteers!



*Info-Provided by Doni Fall  
On Behalf of  
The First Across the  
Finishline Committee:*

## FIRST ACROSS THE FINISH LINE

You know how good you feel about yourself after a hard day's work? You know how much better you feel when, after that same hard day's work, someone says, "Hey, thanks. I couldn't have done it without you. Here's a little something for ya to show my appreciation." Well, the MMBA (thanks to an anonymous donation) has been empowered to thank all of you who have helped out your chapter with trail maintenance. We can now give you a little something to show our appreciation.

No, we're not just going to pass along some free schwag that we've collected, and we're not just going to make more

plaques (even though they are pretty cool). You spent some time for us. We're going to spend some money on you. **That's right. The anonymous donation to the MMBA of \$10,000 was directed to be spent over the next 2-3 years on you, our volunteers, in appreciation for the work**

"Every time your chapter has a trail maintenance date, the leader of the event will have a sign up sheet to log each volunteer and their hours worked..."

you do maintaining our trails.

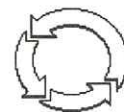
Here's how it's going to work. Every time your chapter has a trail maintenance date, the leader of the event will have a sign up sheet to log each volunteer and their hours worked. These events must be organized through the local chapter somehow. So, if your chapter doesn't have anything on the schedule, call your chapter president to get something going. At the end of the year, everyone who puts in 10 hours or more will get rewarded with some very cool stuff (we'll give you more details in the next newsletter—

think high quality clothing, potentially a weekend trip for each chapter's volunteer of the year).

We realize that there are going to be times when you're out on the trail alone, just trying to enjoy a ride, but you end up spending a couple of hours clearing trash or fallen branches or whatever. Obviously, those hours won't be documented unless you've contacted your local chapter or trail manager. We still really appreciate that work, but we need to take an organized approach to this whole thing—you understand. So, PLEASE, call your chapter so they can record all of your efforts.

And...you're chapter's president undoubtedly knows about the dedicated volunteers who are out there working on their own and may recognize one of them as chapter volunteer of the year.

What it all comes down to: we're confident that by the year's end we'll have some pretty impressive trail maintenance volunteer hour statistics to show park systems, the DNR, the National Forest Service, dealers, promoters, merchandisers, other bike organizations, and, yes, even legislators (bureaucrats love numbers) to prove what we've know all along, Mountain Bikers Rule The Trails! And...you'll get some very cool stuff. See you on the trails.



Please remember to recycle...it's a part of bicycling!



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**A REMINDER TO ALL MMBA MEMBERS:**  
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Attention all MMBA 10% Club bike shop participants please send me an updated business card size ad for inclusion in the next issue of the BRB. New ad submission deadline: July 30 1997. Please don't delay!



# MMBA MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION Chapter Chatter

(Continued from page 13)

complete the loop. One of the attractions is the chance to ride Waterloo Trail which is normally closed to bikes.

The Poto Chapter of the MMBA will mark the loop beforehand and pass out maps. Be sure to bring enough food and water to last the duration of the 4-6 hour ride because no aid stations will be available. Bringing a partner is recommended.

Maps will be handed out at the trail head from 9:30-10:00. Please call Jim James at 313-975-9483 for more info. The ride will be moved to the rain date if it is "raining hard" the morning of the event.

Please call the Poto Hotline (313-663-9440) or Pinckney Recreation Area (313) 426-4913 on the morning of the ride if the weather is ambiguous.

## Trail Maintenance

Poto Sunday June 15

Poto Sunday August 17

Other dates may be planned.

For the Poto repairs meet behind the Ranger station @ 9:30am and bring water, gloves, food and bike to ride afterward. Call Robert Hurley @ 313-663-3113 for the latest information.

**ALWAYS CHECK THE POTO HOTLINE FOR UP-**

**TO-DATE TRAIL  
INFORMATION  
313-663-9940.**

## Pontiac Lake

The new President of the Pontiac Lake Chapter is:

**Bill Stoutenburg  
5135 Sparrowood  
Waterford, MI 48327-  
1351  
810/674-4173**

Call him for the latest!

## Western Chapter

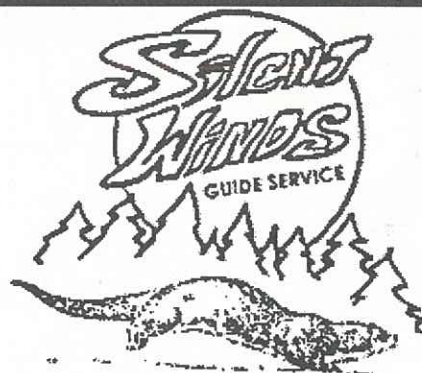
For the latest in Western Chapter activity contact Paul Smith, chapter president at:  
(616) 866-8583

e-mail: prizon@ao.com

The Western Chapter has been busy at Bass Rive, Owassipe Boy Scout Reservation, Yankee Springs and most recently, a trail bed repair at the Cannonsburg State Game Area.

They also have a cool chapter newsletter out. So call Paul for more information!

*"In wildness is the preservation of the world..." Henry David Thoreau*



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(PS continued from pg. 9)

just keeps getting better (I said that). Then it's on to Pando again, Pontiac Lake, Ruby, Garland, Cool, Addison Oaks (the dry one), and finally Cannonsburg to end the year.

And if that's not enough, you can do the Tailwinds time trial series, The Twelve Hours of Ithaca, The Twelve Hours of Pando, or Dirtstock 97. Man, it just keeps getting better. (Did I say that already?) If you love mountain biking, you couldn't live in a better state - period. So I'll see you at the races, or on the trails, or at Dirtstock, or in Moab.



## Rain Ride

By Todd Scott

The Southeast Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association had our first annual "Backroads Boogie" early in May, at the Highland State Recreation Area. Boy, did it rain. And when the rain slowed, the wind gusted. Despite the conditions, we probably had about 30 hearty folks. We managed to eat all the delicious bagel sandwiches and ride the roads and trail.

A local bike shop, Cycle and Fitness brought three fully-suspended bikes (Trek Y, ProFlex, Schwinn) which everyone rode around.

The Armadillo Racing

Team VW van was there despite the fact that it had little heat. Armadillo really helped out by providing some sweet T-shirts at a very reasonable cost.

Despite the rain, the trail was in fine shape. It was solid hardpack with negligible mud. In fact, the Chief Planner for the Michigan DNR drove to our event from the State Capitol. He was very impressed with the trail design and condition. He checked out the trail and remarked, "there's no erosion here!"

Bud Pell (designer of the local Maybury trail) told me we couldn't have asked for better P.R.. Bob Yankus (designer of the Highland trail) was equally

excited by the opportunity. We took a large step forward in convincing the top-level DNR folks that we can design low-maintenance, low-impact, and challenging mountain trails. You should ride Highland Trail. It's sixteen miles of tight, winding, grinding singletrack: a gem in this part of the State.

However, you may want to wait for good weather.

---

*Volunteers make sure you're in line for your share of the \$10,000 for your help making Michigan Trails the best in the Nation - see page 15.*

---

## Quad-Fest

By Todd Scott

The unofficial Quadruple Fest occurred on Memorial Day in Southeast Michigan. The Quadruple Fest started with a lap around Pontiac Lake followed by the A-B-C loops at Highland, a lap at Island Lake, and once around Maybury. On paper these four trails add up to 44.4 miles.

The start at Pontiac Lake was a little confusing when the ride organizer (Robert) failed to show — his Jeep broke down. Coincidentally, last year's Triple Fest leader (Steve) failed to show last year. Blame it on tradition.

The Pontiac Lake lap was pretty uneventful as just under a dozen riders survived the chilly but sunny morning weather. Just before starting, someone pointed out that I had a busted spoke. Little did I know that this was an omen for bad things to come.

We motored to Highland

Rec. and hit the trails. We were all riding fairly quickly when I miss timed a downhill log jump, flying head first over the bars, and giving Mother Nature a big ol'kiss. I banged my head fairly well, but I jumped up and shook it off. This is clearly attributable to the male desire to deny pain in front of other males. In reality I was hurting. I stood there for a bit and had to think hard about where I was, what I was doing, and even what day it was. It was like a bad college hangover, the kind that put you on the wagon until the next weekend.

From here on, I rode like a grandma (with no offense to grandma riders.) The trails at Highland are much more technical than most Michigan trails. They're more like the technical East coast variety with fewer roots. We all made it thru, got back to our vehicles and starting eating.

We trekked to Island Lake and ran into a bunch of friends who chose to do just one leg of the "Fest." We hit the trails enjoying the pleasant weather. After four miles I noticed my rear derailleur was getting stuck between gears. I was babying it as it snapped off, wedged in my spokes, ripped open the cable housing, and busted my chain. The cast aluminum body between the hanger bolt and the parallelogram hinges cracked in two. It was a two year old Shimano XT.

I pulled off the toasted parts, stuffed them in my jersey, and started my one mile Bike Push Fest. I met my friends back in the parking lot. We looked at my handful of dead, greasy bike parts one more time and snickered before they went to Maybury and I headed home, while the Quad Fest continued at Maybury without me...well, maybe next year!



# Detroit Free Press RTC

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## Northern Exposure



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abandoned railroad corridors,  
backroads and major paved roads  
- So a fat tire bike is a must.

Camping

7-day tour

Sag Service

Breakfast, Lunch

and Dinner Included

Return Bus Transportation Available

40-60 Miles Per Day (285 Total)

Explore porcupine Mountains  
Wilderness State Park (On free day of  
tour). Limited space available-  
Registration will be confirmed.

**Please Note:** When contacting the Michigan Mountain Biking Association use this address when sending membership application, for general questions about MMBA Championship Points Series or Treasurer Information:

**MMBA 4217 Highland Rd. #268 Waterford, MI 48328-2165**

If you have a question for the Executive Director, information for the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB), land access or land management concerns contact:

**Executive Director/BRB**

**P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306**

Or for info by phone call: **616-785-0120**

e-mail: **gommba@aol.com**

web: **www.mmba.org**

**\$10,000 For Volunteers - See Page 15.**



## A Survey of Hiker and Mountain Bicyclist Contact on the Trail

Prepared by: American Hiking Society

Mountain bicycling has exploded over the past decade. As the sport has grown so has the potential for conflicts between hikers and mountain bicyclists. To help shape its policy, American Hiking Society wants to know how you feel about the current or potential issues that can arise when trails are used for both activities. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions below and return this important survey to AHS in the enclosed reply envelope. Thank you.

How often do you day hike (i.e. hike without camping on the trail)?

Never

☐ One to five times per year

☐ One time per month

☐ Two or three times per month

☐ Four or more times per month

Do you own a mountain bicycle? Yes                      No

How often do you ride your mountain bicycle on unpaved trails?

☐ Never

☐ One to five times per year

☐ One time per month

☐ Two to three times per month

☐ Four or more times per month

How often do you backpack or overnight hike (i.e. hike and camp along the trail)?

☐ Never

☐ One to five times per year

☐ One time per month

☐ Two to three times per month

☐ Four or more times per month

How do you feel when you encounter another hiker:

a. On a front country trail?

☐ Enjoy the meeting

☐ No reaction

☐ Dislike meeting

☐ Hasn't happened

b. On a backcountry trail?

☐ Enjoy the meeting

☐ No reaction

☐ Dislike meeting

☐ Hasn't happened

How do you feel when you encounter a mountain bicyclist:

a. On a front country trail?

☐ Enjoy the meeting

☐ No reaction

☐ Dislike meeting

☐ Hasn't happened

b. On a backcountry trail?

☐ Enjoy the meeting

☐ No reaction

☐ Dislike meeting

☐ Hasn't happened

When hiking in the front country, do any of the following factors negatively influence your hiking experience? Please rate these factors from 1-5, with 1 being "a great deal" and 5 being "not at all."

Volume of trail users                      - 1 2 3 4 5

Volume of mountain bicyclists        - 1 2 3 4 5

Litter on the trail                         - 1 2 3 4 5

Signs of environmental damage       - 1 2 3 4 5

Non-wildlife noises                      - 1 2 3 4 5

**Please Fill Out And Mail Today**



Estimate the percentage of your hiking days spent on the following types of trails:

a. Front country (Within urban areas; homes and buildings nearby):

0-20%      21-40%      41-60%      61-80%      81-100%

b. Backcountry (Away from urban areas; no homes or buildings in sight):

0-20%      21-40%      41-60%      61-80%      81-100%

As a hiker, what are your biggest concerns about sharing the trail with mountain bicyclists?

1= Major concern; 2 = Big concern; 3 = Somewhat of a concern; 4 = Minor concern; 5 = No concern

High speed mountain bicyclists -1 2 3 4 5

Trail too narrow for hikers and bicyclists -1 2 3 4 5

Damage to trail Increase in noise level -1 2 3 4 5

Discourtesy -1 2 3 4 5

Safety -1 2 3 4 5

Effect on natural experience  
of hiking (i.e. anesthetics) -1 2 3 4 5

At what point, if at all, do the number of trail users negatively affect your hiking experience?

# of Hikers

No effect      1-5      6-10      More than 10

# of Mountain bicyclists

No effect      1-5      6-10      More than 10

Should hikers and mountain bicyclists share the same trail? Front country trails:

Always      Frequently      Occasionally      Never      No opinion

Back country trails:

Always      Frequently      Occasionally      Never      No opinion

Should mountain bicyclists have separate trails in: Front country areas:

Always      Frequently      Occasionally      Never      No opinion

Back country areas:

Always      Frequently      Occasionally      Never      No opinion

Should all trails be designed for multi-use (i.e. both hikers and mountain bicyclists) in: Front country areas:

Yes      No      Uncertain

Back country areas:

Yes      No      Uncertain

From your personal experience, how would you rank the severity of the hiker/mountain bicyclist problem on the trails you frequent?

Hadn't thought about it      Not a problem      Growing problem      Somewhat of a problem      Serious problem

Sex: Male      Female

Age: Under 21      22-34      35-54      55+

Do you live close (i.e. within 20 miles) to a city of 50,000 or more residents?      Yes      No

State you live in:

Additional Comments: (use another sheet of paper if necessary)

Please mail this survey to AHS, 1422 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910 by folding survey and mailing/ or use envelope (preferred) or **Fax it to AHS at (301) 565-6714.**

Thank you.

Fold and mail or use envelope (preferred)

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**AHS**  
**1422 Fenwick**  
**Silver Spring, MD**  
**20910**



MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION TREASURERS REPORT  
YTD THRU DECEMBER, 1996

| <u>INCOME</u>                    | GEN     | BRB   | CHPTR | PTSER  | EXEC     | TOTAL  |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| Membership Renewals: :           | 4,500   | 4,500 | 306   |        | 8,694    | 18,000 |
| New Memberships:                 | 1,944   | 1,944 | 4,344 |        | 1,944    | 10,176 |
| Dealers & Manufacturers:         |         |       |       |        | 4,598    | 4,598  |
| Dealer Solicited Memberships:    |         |       |       |        | 2,453    | 2,453  |
| MMBA Point Series Racer Fees:    |         |       |       | 2,905  |          | 2,905  |
| MMBA Point Series Promoter Fees: |         |       |       | 6,096  |          | 6,096  |
| MMBA Point Series Sponsor Fees:  |         |       |       | 14,225 |          | 14,225 |
| Miscellaneous::                  | 658     |       |       |        | 1,673*   | 2,331  |
| TOTAL INCOME:                    | 7,102   | 6,444 | 4,650 | 23,226 | 19,362   | 60,784 |
| *\$1,673 T-shirt fund            |         |       |       |        |          |        |
| <u>EXPENSE</u>                   |         |       |       |        |          |        |
| Chapter Disbursements:           |         |       | 4,787 |        |          | 4,787  |
| BRB:                             |         | 6,692 |       |        |          | 6,692  |
| MMBA Point Series:               |         |       |       | 13,949 |          | 13,949 |
| Postage:                         | 2,469   |       |       |        |          | 2,469  |
| Printing & Copies:               | 1,926   |       |       |        |          | 1,926  |
| Mileage::                        | 1,630   |       |       |        | 1,630    |        |
| Phone:                           | 919     |       |       |        |          | 919    |
| Meetings:                        | 1,274   |       |       |        |          | 1,274  |
| Dues & Memberships:              | 525     |       |       |        |          | 525    |
| Office Supplies:                 | 1,249   |       |       |        |          | 1,249  |
| Executive Director:              |         |       |       |        | 23,335** | 23,335 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE:                   | 9,992   | 6,692 | 4,787 | 13,949 | 23,335   | 58,755 |
| **\$1,043 T-shirt fund.          |         |       |       |        |          |        |
| ACCOUNT RESOLUTION:              | (2,890) | (248) | (137) | 9,277  | (3,973)  | 2,029  |
| STARTING CHECKBOOK BAL.:         | 1,142   | 1,437 | 2,722 | 4,786  | (8,117)  | 1,970  |
| ENDING CHECKBOOK BALANCE:        | (1,748) | 1,189 | 2,585 | 14,063 | (12,090) | 3,999  |

Advertisement Space in Bent Rim Bugle

|                | <u>MMBA Member*</u>      | <u>NON- MMBA Member</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Full Page:     | \$150.00(7in. x 9in.)    | \$300.00                |
| Half Page:     | \$ 75.00 (5in. x 9in.)   | \$200.00                |
| 1/4 Page:      | \$ 50.00 (3.5in. X 5in.) | \$175.00                |
| Business Card: | \$ 25.00 (standard size) | \$150.00                |

The Bent Rim Bugle publishes land access information, MMBA Championship Points Series information, general interest articles, official MMBA notices, pictures and/or artwork provided by Michigan Mountain Biking Association members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, MMBA Officers, interested mountain bikers and/or public land managers. The Bent Rim Bugle is published 4 times a year: spring/summer/fall/winter. It is mailed to all MMBA members (over 1,500 members) and to land managers, park and recreation personnel, and interested individuals, totaling approximately 2,200 copies for distribution. It is also available for general sale at \$2.00 per copy (contact the MMBA at the number below to receive the next issue).

\*Basic bike shop/manufacturer membership in the Michigan Mountain Biking Association \$110.00. In addition to receiving reduced rates in the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB), as an MMBA member shop or manufacturer you will be listed in each of the 4 issues of the Bent Rim Bugle. All new members (last year's general MMBA membership was over 1,500 receive a list of member shops and manufacturers, and this list is also posted at selected MMBA events and at the MMBA annual meeting. You receive all land access news published by the MMBA, you get a membership window decal, and have the personal satisfaction of knowing that you have done something to help keep your customers out on the trail. For more information call: 616-785-0120 **Camera Ready Prices Only!**

**For more information on the  
1996 or 1997 Budget, please  
contact the MMBA at:**

**MMBA Treasurer  
4217 Highland Rd. #268  
Waterford MI 48328-2165**

**For more info on the Bent  
Rim Bugle (BRB) contact:**

**Executive Director/  
Bent Rim Bugle (BRB)  
P.O. Box 29  
Belmont MI 49306**

**e-mail: gommmba@aol.com  
web: www.mmmba.org**



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## **CURRENT NEWS FROM :**

### **Michigan Chapter of Rails-to- Trails Conservancy**

**From Technical Report May 1997**

#### **Michigan Legislature Takes Initiative to Support Rail-Trails**

The Michigan Chapter of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) in conjunction with a Senate Resolution sponsored by Senator Leon Stille, R, of Spring Lake, and Senator Dale Shugars, R, of Kalamazoo, designated May 1, 1997 as Michigan Trails Day. Senator Stille, Village President Harold Drake of Ravenna, Friends of the Musketawa Rail-Trail, local area residents, and RTC gathered to show their support for the Musketawa Rail-Trail. Sen. Stille presented the community with the resolution and helped pound in some new planks on the Musketawa Rail-Trail's largest trestle in Ravenna.

Equally exciting is the exemplary legislation Sen. Stille is about to introduce. The package of bills will create a statewide Adopt-a-Trail program and develop a new license plate designed to stimulate the Michigan Trailways Fund and generate revenue for maintenance and enhancement of rail-trails. RTC played an active role with the Adopt-a-Trail legislation as it moved through the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee. Currently, the Adopt-a-Trail Legislation is in the House of Representatives and is scheduled for action within the next two weeks. When legislation for the Michigan Trailways License Plate Program is made available, RTC will work closely with

Senator Stille and other members of the legislature to ensure that the needs of Michigan's trail groups are protected.

#### **Rail-Trails: Weeds or Flowers in the Farm Bureau Controversy**

Laura Cruce, Program Coordinator for the Michigan Chapter of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, met with Scott Everett, policy advisor for the Michigan Farm Bureau to discuss the Farm Bureau's current rail-trail policy. The Farm Bureau's 1997 policy was drafted at the 1997 annual conference in Traverse City. In summary, the policy states that Farm Bureau "...opposes that National Trails Act which permits abandoned rail property to be donated and/or used for nature trails or other recreational purposes. Without the approval of the majority of adjacent landowners, we (Farm Bureau) oppose the formation of Rails-to-Trails and linear state parks when it goes through agricultural land..."

In order for the Michigan Farm Bureau to stop rail-trail development in Michigan it is necessary for them to amend the Michigan Trailways Act, which is well-protected by supportive members of the Michigan Legislature. RTC will continue to communicate with the Farm Bureau about the opportunities rail-trails provide in educating urban residents about the benefits of preserving agricultural land. Furthermore, RTC will attempt to address concerns Farm Bureau members have about trespassing, crime, and safety to avoid any unnecessary legislative actions. RTC would like to build a network of Farmers For Trails. If you know any supportive farmers adjacent to rail-trails please

contact RTC Michigan at (517) 393-6022.

#### **AmeriCorps Request For Proposals**

The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (A\*NCCC) Central Region Campus is requesting proposals for team-based service projects beginning November of 1997. Of particular interest are environmental projects focusing on existing and potential partnerships between local land trust, local public officials, and community based organizations.

The A\*NCCC is a residential national service program for young adults, ages 18-24, who are committed to serving our nation's communities for 10 months in four primary areas: Environment, Education, Human Needs and Public Safety. Corps Members work in supervised teams of 12-15 persons in 17 Central Region States, Michigan included.

The A\*NCCC seeks projects that cannot be accomplished without the human resources the A\*NCCC teams provide. A\*NCCC projects must be of lasting and significant impact and ones which will enhance natural and/or urban communities and community relationships. Availability of supplies, sufficient work for 12-15 people and onsite project supervision are important criteria for project selection.

Proposals will be mailed upon request by calling Kelly Causey in the Central Region's project office at (303) 340-7312. A complete Sponsor Guide will be mailed with the proposal which will help address the most commonly asked questions.



Inside Mountain Biking is a cool show!



### IMB

on TCI Cablevision Oakland County Channel 63

**Tuesday at 9:30pm,**

**Thursday at 8:30pm**

**Saturday at 11:00pm.**

Later this summer IMB will be on Pass Sports! Check with your local TCI provider to see if you can also get IMB!!!!

Call now!

**Inside Mountain Biking Inc.** and the **Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA)** team up for another season! **Inside Mountain Biking (IMB)** is a half hour television program in its fifth season of covering the sport of mountain biking. From the start **IMB** has worked with the MMBA to educate and inform viewers of the need for trail advocacy and the goals and work that the MMBA provides for all mountain bikers in Michigan.

The 97 Season of **IMB** will feature three IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) updates and four MMBA updates. These segments are approximately one minute in length and feature a variety of topics such as what is the relationship between IMBA and NORBA? Low impact riding and what does yield mean? Each show includes either an IMBA or MMBA Update along with 8 other segments.

Watch for IMB on TCI Cablevision of Oakland County Channel 63 on Tuesday at 9:30pm, Thursday at 8:30pm and Saturday at 11:00pm. Later this summer IMB will be on Pass Sports! Check with your local TCI provider to see if you can also get IMB!!!! Call now!

### Welcome

**Jason Jones of the Potawatomi Chapter**  
our new Statewide Board MMBA President

### Welcome

**Lisa Lazaroff from the Mid-State Chapter**  
Our new Statewide Board Chairperson

We're looking forward to your leadership and direction. You're invited to see our new statewide officers in action at the MMBA State Board Meeting On July 23 in Lansing. If you would like to attend call 616-785-0120 for directions and time!

### Thank you

**Kristopher Ouvery**

Kristopher leaves after several years as president. He helped with the state boards business plans and objectives. Kristopher will not disappear, look for him anytime you're at Fort Custer and his activities in the Southwest Chapter of the MMBA

### Thank you

**Randy Estes**

Randy steps down from his Chairperson Position on the Statewide MMBA Board. Randy contributed direction and guidance at numerous

statewide board meetings and at several MMBA Annual Meetings. Look for him to continue contributing to the goals and directions of the Holly/Flint Chapter of the MMBA.

## MMBA Positions still needing to be filled include:

**Statewide MMBA Secretary** - position requires attending 4 statewide meetings a year and taking notes and providing minutes of the meeting to the board members.

**MMBA Web-page Custodian** - position requires updating and servicing the MMBA web page. Computer and working knowledge of web page development and care a must.

Your interest in these positions can be brought to the attention of the MMBA nomination committee now being formed at 616-785-0120.



# Big M is A Big Deal!

By Dwain Abramowski

On May 16 a few volunteers and the several staff members

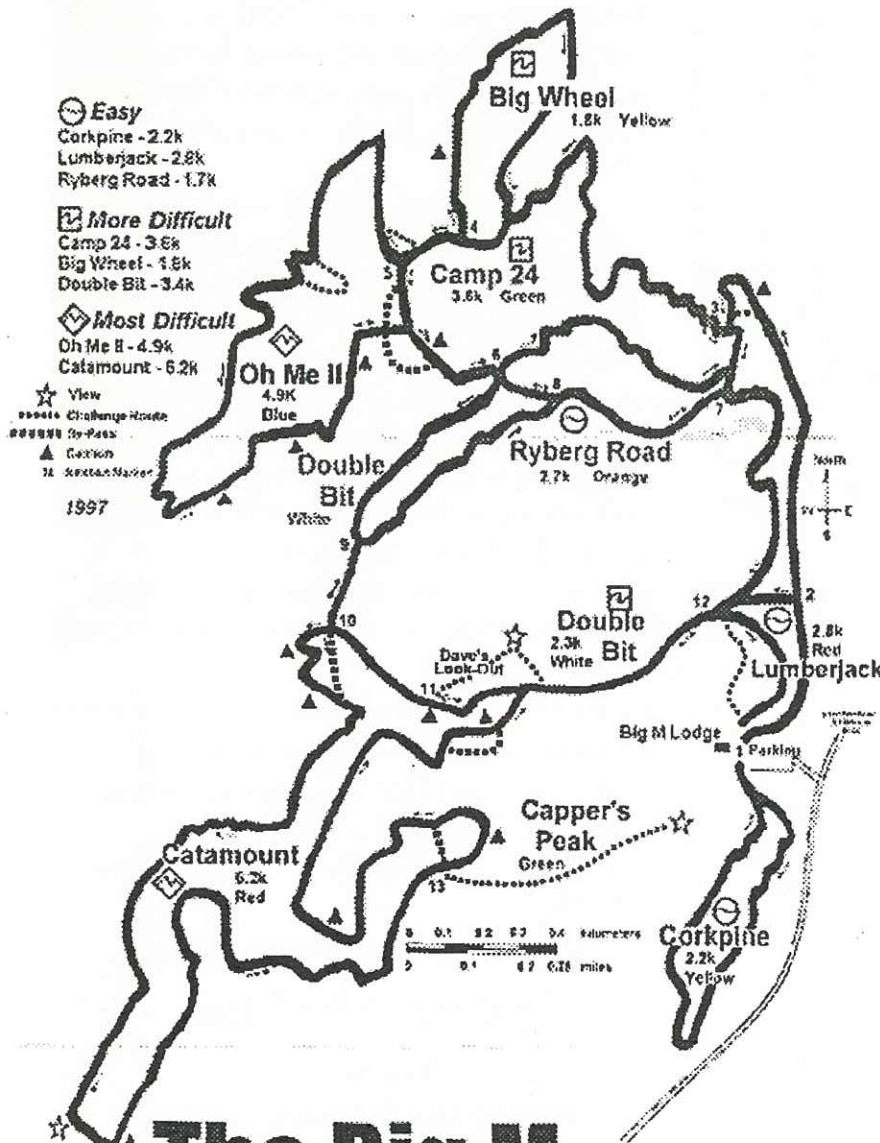
of the U.S. Forest Service converged on the Big M Ski Area and helped the area become a four season resort - cross country skiing being number one, and incorporating

mountain biking/hiking and trail running in spring, summer and fall. The local cross country ski council in Manistee has been caring for and running the Big M Ski Area as a winter time mecca for cross country skiers for years. Some members of the cross-country ski club and the U. S. Forest service got together and have been working toward expanding the areas' potential into the other three seasons of the year (all right after this past spring you may have a case for the area having only two seasons winter and a July thaw...)

In fact, on the work day of May 16, Jeff Gregory, Gary Christner and I were out marking the Catamount Trail thinking May meant spring. When we reached the farthest point out on the trail it started snowing. No, not a few left over flurries from late March - I mean full on white outs! We persevered, though, as did the others out on the trail that day.

The goal was to give the trails that existed the confidence markers needed to be enjoyed by a wide variety of trail users, especially when the forest growth gets going in the late spring and early summer. White out or not, the markers are, for the most part, clearly denoting the trails. All that is left is for people to get up there and use them!

Also, come June 21st, there will be another trail marking day (and ride afterwards for those who want to bring their bikes). This will begin the



## The Big M Cross Country Ski Trails Manistee County, Michigan

**Volunteer Operated  
Donation Funded**

(M continued next page)



June 21st, 8:00 PM, Maybury State Park, Northville

# The Great Southeast Chapter Summer Solstice Night Ride

Bud Pell has gotten the blessing of the Park Management to let us ride at night at the start of summer. Though we'll have a full moon, you should still bring lights for your bike and meet us at the Beck Road parking lot.

If you have questions, contact  
Bud Pell (313) 421-5341  
or Todd Scott (luckyfish@bigfoot.com).

*(M continued from last page)*

marking of the 30 plus miles of singletrack that will circle all the cross-country ski trails. The hills, views and forest diversity of Big M and the surrounding forest is totally awesome. Right now the cross-country ski trails are well marked and provide some great climbs, downhills and views. With the addition of the new perimeter

trail this area will be nothing short of summer, spring and fall mecca to trail-users, just like it is for cross-county skiers.

See you there, rain or shine....or snow....yikes!

A special thank you to Bruce Johnson for bringing tools and best of all, lunch for everyone! Thank you Bruce your kindness will be remembered! Also thank

you to Hojo, Theresa, Gary, Romona and all the U.S. Forest Service staff for organizing the event.

**Next Trail Marking Day  
June 21st Saturday, 10:00am -  
Meet at the Big M Ski Area Trail  
Head just off of M-55 West of  
Welston . For information call:  
616-723-2211.**

## LEARNING FROM HISTORY

*Closing Remarks from our New  
MMBA President - Jason Jones*

In its almost seven years of existence, the MMBA has had its share of success. As most of us know, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources was on the cusp of prohibiting mountain bikes on State trails as the MMBA was born. Thanks to the effort and the talents of many dedicated volunteers the MMBA has not only managed to keep trails open to mountain bikes, but has evolved into the primary non-motorized trail advocacy group in the State.

As great as it is to reminisce on these past accomplishments, it is

important that as an organization we don't begin to dwell on them. This is because a strange phenomenon often occurs when an individual or organization gets to the point where they/it have tasted some of the fruits of success. It is sometimes referred to as "getting comfortable". When this happens, the tendency is to look back at all that has been accomplished while, at the same time, neglecting to take advantage of future opportunities.

Thankfully, the MMBA has yet to reach this point of complacency. With miles of new trails in the works and many new events and projects planned, our organization is far from "sitting on its laurels". None the less, it is important that as an organization

we stay proactive and guard against becoming too comfortable.

When you're hammering down at Yankee, the VASA, Highland, or Pontiac Lake, remember that you ride these trails only as a result of OUR past EFFORT. If another group with another agenda would have put forth more effort...who knows? In order to hit the trail you may have had to use up some of your two weeks of vacation time. It could help secure a ride on your local trail instead of going out of state. So, next time you're out on the trail, keep this in mind. Although some volunteer effort may cost you a little riding today, it ensures you'll have a place to ride tomorrow.



# Up Coming Trail Dates

## Mid-State Chapter of the MMBA DATE/EVENT

Sat 7/12 Chapter Ride @ Grand River Park 2am  
 Sun 8/10 FUNDAYS @ Sleepy Hollow S.P. 11am  
 Sat 8/23 Chapter Ride @ Ionia Rec. Area 2pm  
 Sat 9/13 Chapter Ride @ Fort Custer 2pm  
 Sat 9/27 Scrabble Scramble @ Grand River Park 11am  
 Sun 10/1 Chapter Ride @ Island lake 2pm  
 Sun 10/26 Poker Run TBA

More information regarding these events coming to a mailbox near you!  
 Questions??? call Lisa at 517-782-9093 (313) 997-3465

## Western/Northern Michigan Chapter of the MMBA

Fri 6/21 Big M Ski Area Trail Development Call 616-723-0124  
 More info call @ 616-365-0468

## Holly/Flint Chapter of the MMBA

Sun 4/20 St. Jude's Childrens Hospital "Wheel For Life"  
 Bike-a-thon: Call 810-634-5820

## First annual DIRTSTOCK 97 Mountain Bike Festival August 22-23-24

We have 150 campsites reserved at Fort Custer, and assignments made for sponsorship, bands, etc. If you just want to ride, then come to Southwest Michigan in August and you'll be able to do just that! Please see page 2!!!!

## Potawatomi Chapter of the MMBA

Sun 6/15 Trail Care  
 Sun 6/22 Triple Trail Challenge  
 Sun 8/17 Poto Trail Care



For More Info  
 See  
 Chapter Chatter  
 on page  
 >>>>10>>>>

Michigan Mountain Biking Association  
 4217 Highland Rd. #268  
 Waterford, MI 48328-2165

Address Correction Requested

I lost my tool kit....The dog ate it....  
 My car wouldn't start...  
 The whole file was toast....

Which one of these statements is/are true. Well...all of them at some point in my life. Most recently, "the whole file was toast." The *file* was this issue of the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB), the *toast* was when I went to print it and the whole 28 page file was corrupted. I couldn't open it. Nothing. Nada. Zero. Zilch. The back up - also corrupted. The software company, the computer manufacturer and the utilities provider couldn't put the file back together.

It was like being on the farthest point from home on a wilderness ride and breaking your chain. You think, no problem. I've got a back up chain and a tool kit. You reach under your seat and find you lost your tool kit too. So you start walking and hope to get home before dark and the wild dogs get you.

Well the dogs didn't get me, but I spent a half dozen days and nights rebuilding the BRB which took 3 solid weeks on and off to build the first time. I apologize for any date deadlines that were compromised and information that may be less timely than intended. The next BRB editorial deadline is July 30 and I hope to have the BRB out in August without a glitch....I now carry 4 tool kits on my bike and body when I ride and I back up everything like I-75 at five o'clock on a summer Friday afternoon.... Thank you to all who supported me in this time of crisis...Christina, Nathan, Jason, Gordie, Tim, Lucinda, Todd, Ann, Dan and your understanding. Sincere Dirt - Dwain

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